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Message Text

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53
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 SCSE-00 /015 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:BGSCARLIS:SAC
APPROVED BY EUR/SE:NCLEDSKY
EUR:LBLAINGEN
H:HNELSON
---------- 010281
P 271522Z APR 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 101523

E.O. 11652, N/A

TAGS:(ALLEN, JAMES B.), CGEN, GR

SUBJECT: TAX-EXEMPTION REQUEST FROM US MISSIONARY GROUP.

1. SENATOR ALLEN (D-ALABAMA) WROTE THE DEPARTMENT ON BEHALF OF A CHURCH GROUP WHICH DESIRES TAX EXEMPT STATUS FOR ITS VEHICLES IN GREECE. TEXT OF SENATOR ALLEN'S LETTER FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. MCCLOSKEY:

--I QUOTE FROM A PORTION OF A LETTER I HAVE RECEIVED FROM A CHURCH GROUP IN ALABAMA:

--"THIS SUMMER WE PLAN TO SEND A MISSIONARY TO GREECE TO ASSIST EXISTING CONGREGATIONS. OUR CHURCH HAS ALREADY WON OFFICIAL RECOGNITION BY THE COUNCIL OF STATE, WHICH IS GREECE'S HIGHEST COURT. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING, HOWEVER, THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT REQUIRES ABOUT 100 PERCENT TAX ON MOTOR VEHICLES AND, OF COURSE, OUR MISSIONARY WILL NEED A VAN OF SOME TYPE TO BE USED IN THE WORK OF TRANSPORTING MEMBERS TO AND FROM THE SERVICES OF THE CHURCH, MISSIONARY JOURNEYS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, AND TO TAKE
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SUPPLIES INTO REMOTE AREAS IN TIMES OF DISASTER.

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--"WE ARE WONDERING IF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WOULD GRANT OUR MISSIONARY A TAX-EXEMPT PERMIT OR LICENSE PLATE KNOWN AS X.A. YOU CAN SEE HOW DIFFICULT THIS TAX BURDEN WOULD BE ON THE WORK OF THE MISSIONARY, AND WE DO HOPE THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT MAY BE GRACIOUS ENOUGH TO GRANT THIS TAX FREE ASSISTANCE."

--I WILL APPRECIATE YOUR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF THIS REQUEST, AND I DO HOPE SOMETHING CAN BE DONE TO ASSIST THIS EXTREMELY WORTHY ENDEAVOR."

--WITH KINDEST REGARDS, I AM SINCERELY, JAMES B. ALLEN.
END TEXT.

2. REQUEST EMBASSY ATHENS PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT WITH A SUGGESTED REPLY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE101523
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BGSCARLIS:SAC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760417/aaaaaobt.tel
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 SEP 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 SEP 2004 by cookms>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TAX-EXEMPTION REQUEST FROM US MISSIONARY GROUP.
TAGS: CGEN, GR, (ALLEN, JAMES B)
To: ATHENS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006